Sending of labourers to foreign country

†2477. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any agreements so far with some countries during the last three years for sending the labourers to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provisions have been made in the agreements for providing wages and other facilities to the labourers; and

(d) the names of the countries to which labourers are proposed to be sent?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on manpower was signed between India and the UAE on 13.12.2006. The MoU provides for the following:

* Facilitation of manpower recruitment and mutual sharing of information and experience
* Recruitment to be in conformity with the laws of both countries
* All categories of workers to have the protection of UAE labour law and regulation
* Terms and conditions of employment contract to be in conformity with the work permit that the employer obtains from the UAE Government
* All contracts to be authenticated by UAE Labour Ministry
* The employer would have no authority to change the contact conditions
* A Joint Committee consisting of 3 members from each country shall be responsible for the implementation of the MoU and will have the following mandate:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a. to review employment opportunities in the UAE and availability of corresponding skills in India.

b. to co-ordinate between the two states in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and to take necessary action in this regard.

c. to interpret the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding in case of any dispute in this regard and to settle the difficulties that might arise in the implementation.

d. to propose review or amendment of any of the articles of this Memorandum of Understanding whenever necessary.

*The MoU has come into effect immediately and will be valid for 4 years. It will automatically extend by another 4 years each time thereafter unless any of the countries notifies its intention to terminate it.

Similar MoUs are being pursued with Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Malaysia also for formalizing bilateral cooperation with these countries for promotion of overseas employment and protection of Indian workers.

Off-loading of Indian from US plane

2478. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian was off-loaded from US plane for suspicious behaviour;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Dutch Government officials treated the Indian in objectional way; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the our Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) A Northwest Airlines flight NW 0042, bound for Mumbai from Amsterdam was turned back to Amsterdam on request made by the pilot/US sky marshals on board the flight. The flight was escorted back to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam by Dutch Air Force aircraft on August 23, 2006. 12 Indian passengers on the flight were detained by the Dutch authorities for investigation.